(d) whether prescribed norms are not being followed while sanctioning new L.P.G. agency; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) While most of LPG connections sanctioned under MP's quota are released promptly by Oil Companies, delay occurs in some connections due to incomplete/wrong address, letters returned/undelivered, etc.

(c) Oil Industry has been asked to submit a revised LPG Marketing Plan for sanctioning new LPG agencies, for consideration of Government.

(d) Prescribed norms are being followed.

(e) Does not arise.

Complaints against the L.P.G. Distribution System

2455. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are widespread and varied complaints against the L.P.G. distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of complaints received in this regard and action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to frame new deterant rules to check the irregularities in this regard, if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) There are some complaints of irregularities. Corrective action is taken by oil companies to prevent such acts. At present there are no proposals to frame new rules.

Balance of Pool Account

2456. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the remarks in para 7.3 of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government No. 7 (Commercial) of 1989; and

(b) if so, what is the balance of pool Account as on 31st March, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Balance of Pool Account as on 31st March, 1992 Rs. 5128.18 crores.

Demand for Hike in rates of Royalty on Crude Oil from Crude Oil Production States

2457. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat, Assam and other crude producing State have been demanding a hike in the rates of royalty on crude oil;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, their demands, indicating the extent of increase demanded by them; and

(c) what decision has since been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The fixation of the rate of royalty on crude oil for the period 1-4-1990 to 31-3-1993 is under consideration of Government.

Setting up of Hydro-Carbon Cracker Reactor

2458. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's first hydro-carbon cracker reactor has been commissioned at the Gujarat Refinery in Baroda;